(a) Peace and security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficing; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields, for discussions between the two countries. They had also decided that a mechanism would be set up to address these issues in an integrated manner and that the Foreign Secretaries would directly address the issues of Peace & Security including CBMs and Jammu & Kashmir, and coordinate and monitor discussions on other identified subjects. The discussions in the third round and in Edinburgh focused on these modalities of the dialogue.

During the discussions, our concerns about Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir and the need to stop such anti-India activity was categorically conveyed to Pakistan. Our concerns about the unprovoked firings by Pakistan in the border areas, which have resulted in the loss of innocent civilian lives and has tended to vitiate the atmosphere. were also conveyed.

During the discussions, we also proposed to Pakistan our desire to establish a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation; and to develop a wide ranging relationship covering economic, trade, cultural, people-to-people and other functional areas.

Expulsion of Non-Diplomatic Staff

210. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI G.L. KANAUJIA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan expelled two Indian non-diplomatic staffers of Indian High Commission in Islamabad on September 14, 1997 just on the eve of Indo-Pak Secretary level talks in retaliation of India's earlier expulsion of two Pakistani staffers of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi;

(b) whether any code of conduct between India and Pakistan exists regarding expulsion diplomatic and non-diplomatic staff from each others missions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Pakistan Government has adhered to this code in each of their expulsions during last three years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) On 21.8.1997 Government asked Pakistan to withdraw by 4.9.97 two staff members of its High Commission in New Delhi for engaging in activities incompatible with their official status. In retaliation and on baseless allegations the Government of Pakistan sought on 3.9.1997 the withdrawal by 17.9.1997 of two staff members of our High Commission in Islamabad.

(b) and (c) On 19th August, 1992, India and Pakistan concluded a code of conduct for Treatment of Deplomatic/ consular Personnel, which obliges the two countries to ensure the dignity and personal inviolability of diplomatic/ consular personnel and their families and also safety and security of the premises of Missions personnel. It further stipulates that intrusive and aggressive surveillance, verbal and physical harassment of Mission's personnel and their families will not be undertaken. We have strictly adhered to the provisions of the code of conduct.

(d) and (e) During the last three years (from 1994) Pakistan had sought withdrawal of eight officials of our High Commission in Islamabad and two officials of our erstwhile Consulate General in Karachi under false allegations. It is a matter of deep regret and serious concern that in two cases, Pakistan's official agencies had resorted to physical violence.

It has been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan that resort to such unacceptable, violent and intimidatory actions are in gross violation of all international conventions as also of the bilateral Code of Conduct.

Family Welfare Programme

211. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has issued a communique to the Chief Ministers of States and stressed to monitor family welfare programme personally by them in the States in view of the continuing increase in population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of State Government's thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) Prime Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh on 30th September, 1997 bringing to

their notice the adverse status of family planning and reproductive and child health indicators in these States. The support of the Chief Ministers has been sought for the family welfare and literacy programmes, including monitoring and review.

PM's Visit to USA

212. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :
SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had met US President during his visit to USA in September, 1997;

(b) if so, the specific bilateral and other issues discussed with him;

(c) the details of agreements signed with US during his visit;

(d) the stand taken by the US President on Kashmir issue and supply of arms to Pakistan;

(e) the specific areas in which US has agreed to help India; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further strengthen the ties with USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) This was the first meeting between the two leaders intended to give direction and impetus to Indo-US relations. It was not intended to sign specific agreements. During the meeting the two leaders discussed many issues of bilateral interest. The President emphasised the importance he attaches to the deeper relationship with India and spoke about his forthcoming visit to India. In addition to bilateral issues particularly, the growing economic and commercial links between India and the US, and Indo-US matters in the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the two leaders also exchanged views regarding regional and international issues. PM outlined the recent initiatives taken by India to build friendly and cooperative relationship with all countries of the region. The President expressed appreciation of the now orientation in India's policy towards its neighbours. During the course of discussion, PM underscored the need for countries of this region to settle issues amongst themselves through direct dialogue. The US side expressed that it was supportive of the talks between Pakistan and India and did not seek to get involved in these discussions.

(f) Growing cooperation in the economic and commercial areas was a focus area for discussions. Both sides agreed to give further impetus to this process. Interaction between the two countries has intensified since PM's meeting with President Clinton in New York. A number of high level visits have taken place and others have been scheduled. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering came to Delhi in October. The US Secretary of state is visiting Delhi on 18 & 19 November, 1997. The US Commerce Secretary and the Secretary Health and Human services are also scheduled to visit before the end of this year.

NTPC/SEBs

213. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any power station has been taken over by National Thermal Power Corporation from State Electricity Boards due to non-payment of its dues;

(b) whether most of the State Electricity Boards are unable to pay their outstanding dues to NTPC;

(c) the details of outstanding dues against each State Electricity Board till date; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for realising this outstanding amount so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Project of Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. and Talcher Thermal Power Station of Orissa State Electricity Board have been taken over by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) against adjustment of Rs. 919 crores and 356 crores due from the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Orissa respectively.

(b) and (c) The details of outstanding due to NTPC against each State Electricity Boards as on 31st October, 1997 are given in the Statement attached.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for realising the outstanding dues include recovery of outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) by appropriation from the plan assistance to the respective states and making the future supply of power against advance payment or opening of irrevocabls Letters of Credit by SEBs.